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AFGHANISTAN

Date: June, 2011

Public Information Office: +93 (0)70-234-236 x4037

E-mail: kabulusaidinformation@usaid.gov

<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

FACT SHEET

Afghan Growth Finance (AGF)

OVERVIEW

AGF is a leading private investment firm in Afghanistan that provides affordable growth capital and operational support to Afghan small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Since commencing operations in 2008, AGF's success in Afghanistan has stemmed from its ability to structure dynamic financing options, build value of the supported enterprises and create jobs. Through its global parent organization, AGF is uniquely able to provide hands-on operational support to businesses and link them to international markets to accelerate their growth and profitability.

AGF investments range from \$100,000 to \$4 million and target growth-oriented companies operating in key sectors of the economy. Emphasis is placed on agribusiness and the processed agro-industry, light manufacturing, transport and distribution, warehousing, services, and technology. The objective of AGF is to work with local entrepreneurs and change-driven companies in and add value through innovation and use of new technologies.

SMEs make up the largest proportion of the employment base and provide the majority of goods and services vital to the Afghan economy. Growth of this sector is constrained, however, by lack of access to capital. USAID supports capacity-building of the Afghan Growth Finance project to expand lending to SMEs and create jobs.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Establishing regional branches in Mazar, Hirat, Jalalabad, and Kandahar
- Recruiting and train administrative and technical personnel
- Strengthening management information system infrastructure
- Developing new credit products and strengthen lending procedures and operations
- Providing technical assistance and other value-added services to financed SMEs

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created \$25.1 million in total investments
- Supplied more than \$300 million in development impact to stakeholders
- Provided access to long-term growth capital for more than 20 leading Afghan companies